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List of issues in relation to the combined second and third periodic reports of Tajikistan

Addendum

Replies of Tajikistan to the list of issues*

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I. General framework within which the Covenant is implemented

1. Under article 10 of the Constitution, the international legal instruments recognized by Tajikistan form an integral part of the country's legal system. If national laws conflict with recognized international legal instruments, the provisions of the latter prevail. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force for Tajikistan on 4 April 1999.

2. Implementation of the provisions of the Covenant is set out in specific pieces of legislation governing economic, social and cultural rights. The Government is taking steps to ensure the timely consideration of individual complaints under the Covenant. In their decisions, the courts refer regularly to the relevant provisions of international instruments, including the Covenant. The mechanism for the application of the international instruments recognized by Tajikistan is determined by the Decisions of the plenum of the Supreme Court on application of the provisions of the Constitution by the courts in the administration of justice and on the application by the courts of international legal acts recognized by Tajikistan. The Constitutional Court also regularly applies the provisions of the Covenant in interpreting the law. For instance, it applied the norms of the Covenant in its consideration of matters related to education on 28 April 2011, the right to divorce on 1 July 2009 and pensions on 13 November 2014.

3. Furthermore, since 2005, training for judges has included topics related to the application of international instruments in legal proceedings.

4. Figures from the most recent census show that in 2010 the country was home to 100 ethnic groups and peoples. These included: Tajiks – 84.3 per cent of the population; Uzbeks – 12.2 per cent; Kyrgyz – 0.8 per cent; Lakai – 0.9 per cent; Russians – 0.5 per cent; and Turkmens – 0.2 per cent. Population data from the 2010 census are attached to the present report (see annex, table 1).

5. Pursuant to the Anti-Corruption Act, the State financial control and anti-corruption bodies, the Office of the Procurator, the internal affairs agencies, national security agencies, the military authorities, drug control bodies and the tax and customs authorities, address the fight against corruption within their remit, with broad participation from the public, community organizations and the media. The State Financial Audit and Anti-Corruption Agency Act coordinates the activities of other government departments in this area.

6. To encourage public participation in anti-corruption activities, it is planned to guarantee the inviolability of individuals who assist in the fight against corruption. In particular, persons who provide information concerning offences linked to corruption or otherwise assist in the fight against corruption are given State protection. Information on individuals providing assistance in the fight against corruption is a State secret and is supplied only on request to a strictly defined list of law enforcement agencies or the court in the manner prescribed by law, and only with the consent of the person concerned. If necessary, the anti-corruption agencies involved ensure the safety of persons assisting them in the fight against corruption.

7. In respect of the effectiveness of the anti-corruption activities, it should be noted that, between 2009 and September 2014, the State Financial Audit and Anti-Corruption Agency identified 5,516 corruption offences, with 4,163 criminal cases opened and compensation for material harm to a total of 111,589,663 somoni paid (1 United States dollar = 5.07 somoni). In 2014 the State National Security Committee identified and dealt promptly with more than 188 cases and acts of corruption by members of the Armed Forces and law enforcement personnel. Between 2010 and mid-2014, the procuratorial agencies opened 2,398 criminal cases for corruption and economic crimes related to corruption.

8. Under article 11 of the Commissioner for Human Rights Act, the core functions of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) are to contribute to:

(a) Ensuring respect for human and civil rights and freedoms;

(b) Restoring violated rights and freedoms;

(c) Improving national legislation on human and civil rights and freedoms;

(d) Promoting the legal awareness of citizens in respect of human and civil rights and freedoms, and the ways and means of protecting them;

(e) Working with government agencies in protecting human and civil rights and freedoms;

(f) Promoting the development and coordination of international cooperation in the field of human and civil rights and freedoms.

9. The freedom and independence of the Office of the Ombudsman in decision-making and non-interference in its work are essential to the effectiveness of its human rights work and guarantee objectivity and impartiality.

10. Social, economic and cultural rights fall within the mandate of the Ombudsman. The rights of poor and marginalized citizens are considered priorities in all areas of the Ombudsman's activities.

11. Work is currently under way to establish cooperation between the Office of the Ombudsman and NGOs, civil society and government agencies, with the aim of promoting economic, social and cultural rights.

12. The Office of the Ombudsman conducts regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns, examines current laws and bills, proposes amendments and additions to draft legislation, conducts research and surveys and investigates specific complaints.

13. Legislative initiative. The Ombudsman monitors current legislation and bills at the different stages of consideration and development. This makes it possible to conduct expert appraisals of the laws and regulations with regard to their compatibility with the Constitution and the norms of international law and assess their likely impact on the human rights situation. Both the public and experts can assist the Ombudsman significantly in the monitoring and analysis of legislation, as can the legal community and human rights organizations.

14. Pursuant to a government decision of 21 December 2009, the Office of the Ombudsman has been allocated its own separate premises. It has been given a staff of 21 civil servants and 15 support staff to implement its activities and fulfil its mandate. There are 11 public advisory centres with 18 staff in the various regions of the country.

15. On 28 March 2012, the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, considered the application of the Office of the Ombudsman for compliance with the Paris Principles. The Ombudsman of Tajikistan thus became the first such institution in Central Asia to be granted B status. The Subcommittee on Accreditation made recommendations on improvements to the work of the Ombudsman and work is now being done to implement them.

II. Issues relating to the general provisions of the Covenant (arts. 1–5)

Article 2, paragraph 1
Maximum available resources

16. The attached tables show comparative data for the period 2009–2013 as percentages of gross domestic product, with the budget allocations for health, education, culture and sports, as related to economic, social and cultural rights (see annex, tables 2 and 3).

Article 2, paragraph 2
Non-discrimination

17. The Constitution and national legislation deem discrimination to be inadmissible.

18. The Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act of 29 December 2010 includes measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and age. In particular article 3 of the Act sets out the key principles of equal rights for persons with disabilities and State guarantees of social protection for persons with disabilities.

19. Under articles 10 and 12 of the Refugees Act, asylum seekers and members of their families, as well as persons who are recognized as refugees, have the right to work, as employees or in entrepreneurial activities, and to receive an education.

20. In order to improve the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees and in implementation of international legal instruments to which Tajikistan is a party, the Government adopted a decision of 2 August 2004 which excluded the following towns and districts from the list of settlements referred to in Decision No. 325: Kafarnihan (currently Vahdat), Faizabod [Wiki], Darband [Wiki] (currently Nurobod [Wiki]), Tajikabod [Wiki], Tavildara, Garm (currently Rasht) and Yavan.

21. A joint working group was set up to address issues related to the implementation of the 16 October 2004 Agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on employment of Tajik citizens in the Russian Federation and citizens of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan and protection of their rights. The joint working group meets each year, in Tajikistan and the Russian Federation alternately.

22. During the regular meeting of the joint working group from 4 to 6 August 2014 in Moscow, a range of issues related to implementation of the Agreement was reviewed, including drafts of the following agreements:

- On the organized recruitment of citizens of Tajikistan for temporary employment in the territory of the Russian Federation;
- On cooperation in pension provision.

23. A protocol was also signed between the Governments of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation on amending the 16 October 2004 Agreement between them on employment of Tajik citizens in the Russian Federation and citizens of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan and protection of their rights, allowing citizens of Tajikistan to work in the Russian Federation for a period of three years.

Article 3
Equal rights of men and women

24. The creation of jobs, especially for women, is a priority in State policy at the moment. The economic development programme for the period up to 2015 includes an active gender policy aimed at increasing the number of women employed, women in the economy and the social sphere.

25. There are significant differences in gender distribution by type of employment. There is a preponderance of women in certain occupations (most frequently low-paid) and men in others. The service sector and agriculture have the highest proportion of women in the workforce. In 2014, 66.5 per cent of health-care sector employees were women, while the figure was 52.4 per cent in culture and art, 50.1 per cent in agriculture and 54.9 per cent in education.

26. The Government provides comprehensive support for women in self-employment and in business through microcredits, which are an effective instrument in the poverty reduction strategy. Over the first nine months of 2014, 84,606 women received microcredits to a total of more than 719,010 somoni for setting up and developing small businesses, production workshops and other initiatives.

27. Pursuant to a government decision of 4 July 2006 on the allocation of presidential grants to foster the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, to encourage women and girls to learn skills, to enhance their legal awareness and to promote job creation over the period 2006–2010, the President has awarded grants each year since 2006. In 2014 a total of 40 grants worth 2 million somoni were awarded.

28. The 2012–2013 programme of work in support of the State policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men includes the following measures to bring women into employment:

- From those positions currently available, help to place women in permanent jobs (29,800 persons);
- Provide career guidance (6,000 persons);
- Provide vocational training to improve qualifications and retraining in professions required by the labour market (13,700 persons);
- Support women's initiatives to develop entrepreneurship and self-employment (3,900 persons);
- Promote women's participation in paid public works (6,200 persons);
- Provide employment for women and girl victims of violence and trafficking;
- Introduce information campaigns and legal awareness-raising for women;
- Encourage women to take up various forms of home working.

29. The 2010–2013 State Education Programme included a range of activities promoting girls' education, with the introduction of scholarships and other forms of financial assistance. The Empowering Education programme is being run, a further programme on informal education has been implemented successfully, and an accelerated learning programme and textbooks have been published. Centres that deal with gender issues have also been set up.

30. Statistics show that there are currently approximately 1,940,481 persons in education in the country, of whom 889,744 are girls, representing an increase of 15 per cent compared to 2005. Since 1997 there has been a presidential quota for girls from remote regions entering tertiary education. In 2014, 679 girls entered universities under the quota.

31. Amendments have been made to the Family Code to prevent early marriage, raising the minimum age of marriage from 17 to 18 years. In 2013 and the first six months of 2014, 221 persons were prosecuted for early marriages. In 2009, 162 persons were convicted for bigamy and polygamy, with a further 128 convicted in 2010 and 95 in 2013.

32. The response to question 10 is given in paragraph 9.

III. Issues relating to the specific provisions of the Covenant (arts. 6–15)

Article 6
The right to work

33. In 2010, a total of 48,145 persons, including 31,569 women, were registered with the employment agencies as unemployed. The figures included: 3,477 persons, including 2,337 women, in Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province; 17,806 persons, including 9,493 women, in Khatlon province; 14,590, including 7,749 women, in Sughd province; 9,974 persons, including 4,870 women, in the centrally administered districts and 2,298 persons, including 1,022 women, in Dushanbe. In 2011, a total of 54,487 persons including 28,171 women, were registered with the employment agencies as unemployed. The figures included: 3,794 persons including 2,328 women, in Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province; 22,942 persons, including 12,361 women, in Khatlon province; 12,655 persons, including 6,502 women, in Sughd province; 12,480 persons, including 5,946 women, in the centrally administered districts and 2,616 persons, including 1,034 women, in Dushanbe.

34. In 2010 and 2011, the official unemployment levels in the country were 2.2 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively.

35. Migration of citizens to find work abroad was most prevalent during the transitional period and is currently at significant levels.

36. Between 2005 and 2013, there was a substantial increase in labour migration, in terms of both flows and numbers. The flow of migrant workers (according to data from migration cards, which may contain duplicates) travelling to work abroad during 2013 amounted to 799,700 persons, a figure almost double that of 2005. Of those, 698,800 (87.4 per cent) were men and 100,900 (12.6 per cent) were women.

37. The majority of migrant workers — 790,400 or 98.8 per cent — go to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): 782,200 or 97.8 per cent to the Russian Federation and 8,200 or 1.0 per cent to other CIS countries; 9,300 went to more distant countries.

38. Most of those going abroad to work are men aged between 17 and 62 and women aged between 17 and 57. A total of 42.5 per cent of migrant workers, or 340,600 persons, are young people between the ages of 17 and 29. The 30–39 years age group represents 33.1 per cent, or 264,600, and 24.3 per cent, or 194,500 persons, are aged 40 or over.

39. An employment promotion programme has been developed pursuant to the Employment Promotion Act of 1 August 2003. The programme includes a series of measures to boost employment: vocational training for unemployed persons and job seekers, further training and retraining, advisory services and financial support for small and medium-sized businesses, employment opportunities in paid public work, job fairs, and the allocation and payment of unemployment benefits. Over the past five years, the programme has provided employment for 147,400 unemployed persons and job seekers; 44,900 received training, further training and retraining; 14,300 concessionary interest-free loans were granted to small and medium-sized enterprises; 45,900 persons were employed in paid

public works and 18,300 received unemployment benefits. A total of 41,650,000 somoni was disbursed from the State budget for implementation of the programme.

40. The Government adopted the Concept for the Creation and Preservation of Jobs, 2008–2015 and its National Implementation Plan. In just over five years, 661,700 new jobs were created.

41. In 2010, with support from the international organization, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection set up reintegration centres to help migrant workers with adaptation. This was particularly important for persons not receiving assistance from the public agencies and in need of social and legal support, as well as comprehensive help and essential services for migrant workers and members of their families.

42. The reintegration centre offer the following:

- Individual consultations for returning migrants;
- Help in assessing their professional skills;
- Employment for returning migrants;
- Support in starting up their own businesses;
- Assistance to the employment agencies in finding employment for returning migrant workers;
- Monitoring, assessment and forecasting of migration processes and the adoption of measures to regulate issues related to migration.

43. Centres were set up that year in Sughd and Khatlon provinces.

Article 7
The right to just and favourable conditions of work

44. Particular effort was put into building up the vocational training programme for women over the first nine months of 2014, on the basis of the State Employment Programme. To assist the unemployed, the employment agencies have supported entrepreneurial initiatives in the form of concessionary loans to 2,903 citizens in the amount of 9,420,000 somoni, which helped to encourage 1,646 women to enter business. Job and vacancy fairs produced permanent jobs for 3,173 persons, including 983 women.

45. A total of 9,065 unemployed persons, including 998 women, have received vocational advice.

46. The 2013–2016 Occupational Health Programme was adopted by a government decision of 3 December 2012. Pursuant to the plan of activities for the Programme's implementation, a government decision has been drafted approving the list of industries, jobs and professions with difficult and hazardous working conditions in which female labour is prohibited, as well as maximum acceptable loads for women in manual lifting and carrying (see annex, tables 3–8).

47. The amount of the minimum wage is set by the President. A presidential decree of 1 September 2013 raised the minimum wage for all sectors of the economy by 25 per cent. to 250 somoni per month. Under article 103 of the Labour Code, collective agreements, except those applicable to organizations financed from the State budget or receiving public subsidies, may set a higher minimum wage (see annex, tables 9 and 10).

48. In respect of the size of the consumer basket, on 21 January 2013, the Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment issued an order on measures to ensure the implementation of Government Decision No. 775 of 29 December 2012 on methodological

recommendations for setting the consumer basket for the main sociodemographic groups in the country. The recommendations are used as indicators in determining the priorities for social policies and standards on minimum wages, pensions, benefits, compensation and other social benefits, as well as in assessing living standards for the purposes of future social policy and the development of the necessary targeted social programmes, in order to define minimum social standards, government guarantees of living standards and for use as criteria (indicators) for setting poverty levels giving access to social benefits and compensation. Under paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned regulations, the Government Research Institute for Labour, Migration and Employment, together with the Presidential Statistics Agency has drawn up a draft procedure for calculating the minimum cost of the consumer basket, which was confirmed by joint order of 19 June 2013 of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection and the director of the Presidential Statistics Agency.

Article 8
Trade union rights

49. The revised Trade Unions Act of 2 August 2011, which regulates the legal framework for the establishment of trade unions, their rights and guaranteeing their activities, also governs their relations with government authorities, employers and employers' unions or associations, as well as other voluntary associations of individuals and legal persons. Under article 10 of the Act, membership of a trade union does not imply any restrictions on the labour, economic, social, cultural, political or civil rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and other legislative acts.

50. The right to associate in trade unions is an integral part of citizens' labour rights, in line with article 4 of the Labour Code. Article 18 of the Code lays out the main rights of trade unions, including the right to strike. The procedure for carrying out strikes is set out in articles 211 to 214.

51. Article 27 of the Act provides that trade unions may, in accordance with legally established procedures, organize and conduct assemblies, rallies, peaceful marches, demonstrations, strikes and other activities as a means of fighting for an improved working environment, higher wages, less unemployment, unity of workers in the struggle for their labour rights and socioeconomic interests, and to protect them from employer arbitrariness, as well as to convince the public authorities to introduce socioeconomic policies that meet the demands of trade union members. The procedure for assemblies, rallies, demonstrations and marches is set by the Assemblies, Rallies, Demonstrations and Street Marches Act of 22 May 1998.

52. Furthermore the social partnership between the Government, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions and the Employers' Association periodically produces umbrella agreements in the framework of the Social Partnership, Agreements and Collective Agreements Act. The aim of such agreements is to ensure social stability, poverty reduction and the development of the national economy, as well as to protect the workers' social and labour rights.

Article 9
The right to social security

53. For working citizens (who have social insurance), social benefits are allocated and paid from the State Social Insurance Fund, which is regulated by the State Social Insurance Act and other normative legal acts. The methodology for selecting beneficiaries and the procedure for the provision of social benefits is also laid out in legislation.

54. The following types of social benefits are set out in articles 12 and 16 of the Act: temporary disability benefit; maternity allowance; family allowance; unemployment benefit; and funeral grants (ceremony allowance).

55. The Employment Promotion Act sets out the citizen's right to the allocation and payment of unemployment benefits, as well as their size.

56. Work is currently under way to improve the social insurance system in respect of unemployment benefits, occupational injury pensions and maternity protection. The total amounts paid out in unemployment benefits were as follows: 2,224,500 somoni in 2011, 2,839,000 somoni in 2012, and 3,025,000 somoni in 2013. A total of 22,715 unemployed persons received benefits under the Employment Programme in the period 2011–2013: 6,292 in 2011, 8,236 in 2012 and 8,180 in 2013.

57. The pension system is currently undergoing reform and, by 2017, pensions will be allocated on the basis of the Act on Pension Coverage for Citizens of Tajikistan of 25 June 1993 and the Insurance and State Pensions Act of 12 January 2010.

58. This legislation provides minimum guarantees for working citizens (insured persons), establishing the minimum retirement pension and basic pension, the amounts being set by the President, taking financial capacities into account. Pensions for persons who have worked (and made insurance contributions) for at least 25 years (300 months) for men and at least 20 years (240 months) for women and who are entitled to a pension shall not be less than the minimum retirement pension (130 somoni) or the basic pension (130 somoni).

59. The right of orphaned children to a pension is set by the Contributory and State Pensions Act. To effectively implement measures to ensure material provision for orphans, the Government issued a decision on 2 March 2013 on the procedure for the payment of pensions to children in the care of the State. The decision establishes that pensions for orphaned children — who are generally provided with full care in State educational institutions — are paid in full to the beneficiary's personal account in a public banking institution. When the child reaches the age of majority, he or she has the right to dispose of accumulated assets at his or her discretion.

Article 10
Protection of the family, mothers and children

60. An appropriate legislative framework governing issues related to equality between men and women has been established. According to article 17 of the Constitution, men and women have equal rights. On 3 December 1999, a presidential decree on enhancing the role of women in society was adopted.

61. The Act on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities in the Exercise of Such Rights was adopted in 2005. It enshrines State guarantees, providing for equal opportunities for men and women in the civil service, in the socioeconomic sphere and in the exercise of the right to vote, among others.

62. The Domestic Violence Prevention Act was passed in 2010. It allows a legal assessment to be made of domestic violence offences and offers real assistance to victims of domestic violence. In 2014, the Government adopted the State Domestic Violence Prevention Programme for 2014–2023. The Programme's strategic objective is to ensure the effective implementation of domestic violence prevention mechanisms with the participation of all State entities and the public, to significantly improve the crime prevention system, ensure real protection of civil rights and freedoms, as well as of constitutional norms, ensure family stability and prevent the occurrence of violence within families.

63. There are government agencies and public organizations that provide practical assistance to women victims of domestic violence: the Government Committee on Women's and Family Affairs, the Bovary (trust) Women's Crisis Centre and the Support Centre for Girl Victims of Violence under the Committee on Women's and Family Affairs, 110 local authority advisory centres and 18 NGO-run crisis centres for the rehabilitation of women victims of violence. Overall State bodies and public organizations currently operate 33 crisis centres, 3 temporary shelters and 8 rooms in medical centres providing assistance to victims of domestic violence.

64. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has introduced the position of domestic violence prevention inspector with the aim of preventing domestic violence and improving the work done in that area. Pursuant to a Ministry of Internal Affairs order of 17 March 2010, five domestic violence prevention inspector posts have been created in Khatlon and Sughd provinces, as well as Dushanbe, with women appointed to them.

65. The Ministry of Internal Affairs adopted a domestic violence prevention programme in 2013. A comprehensive plan for combating violence against women and minors was also established and sent to the Ministry's field departments and units for implementation. Implementation of the national programme has led to a reduction in the number of domestic violence cases reported. Over the first nine months of 2014, Ministry of Internal Affairs staff considered 1,667 complaints and applications related to domestic violence from citizens, which is 808 fewer than the previous year. The complaints and petitions filed have led to 241 criminal cases being opened (464 in 2013), with proceedings not initiated in 1,124 cases (515 in 2013); administrative proceedings were brought in 152 cases and other administrative measures in a further 92 cases, while 58 complaints were sent for consideration to other units.

66. The Committee on Women's and Family Affairs has been running the Support for Girls project since 2009; it works with girls aged between 10 and 18 who have been sexually abused, mistreated or trafficked and has received State funding since April 2012. The budget allocated was 817,100 somoni in 2013 and 978,600 somoni in 2014. The Centre is designed for 20 people and, during this period, 215 girls have received legal, judicial, psychological, social and rehabilitation services. The project has a legal office and a free telephone crisis helpline.

67. An elective course on the prevention of domestic violence has been taught at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Academy since November 2010. Each year the course is offered to 125 third-year students , in six training groups with 20 teaching hours in each training group, that is, a total of 120 hours. An elective course on human trafficking with a similar number of hours is offered to the same number of students.

68. Rooms for women victims of violence were opened between 2011 and 2013 in Qūrghonteppa maternity clinic and hospital and No. 2 maternity clinic in Dushanbe (Khatlon province), and Khūjand maternity clinic, Qairaqqum municipal maternity clinic and Tursunzoda district central hospital (Sughd province), to provide advice and timely medical care and psychological support for women victims of violence.

69. A broad educational outreach network has been developed to improve the accessibility of basic services. It caters for more than 27,000–29,000 visitors each year, of whom more than 11,000–12,000 receive comprehensive contraceptive services.

70. The following programmes are currently being implemented with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: "Gender aspects of the State budget, gender statistics", "Gender stereotyping" and "The legal framework for gender equality in the Tajikistan: issues related to land distribution, inheritance and property".

71. There are currently 85 boarding schools in the country. Orphans and persons with disabilities are provided with clothing and school supplies in all the boarding schools.

72. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection system includes four children's homes for children up to the age of 4 which provide medical care for orphans and children left without parental care, as well as children with disabilities and with physical and mental developmental disabilities. These institutions cater for between 250 and 290 children each year. Most of them (29.1 per cent) are aged 3 or older, 20.3 per cent are between 1 and 2 years old and 15.4 per cent are under the age of 1. Eighty-five per cent of the children come from poor families. The funding for the children's homes increases each year. The alternative to the children being taken into children's homes is adoption. During the period 2013–2014, 110 children from the children's homes were adopted.

73. There are currently 11,569 students in boarding schools. To provide for the education of children with disabilities in educational institutions and at home, the Board of the Ministry of Education and Science has adopted regulations on inclusive education for children with disabilities in educational institutions and regulations on the organization of home schooling, which have been transmitted to provincial, district and municipal education departments for implementation.

74. Over the past three years, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection has been working to prevent children ending up in these institutions. Round-table discussions were held in 2012–2013 in Dushanbe and Khujand with the participation of representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund and NGOs, medical professionals from children's homes, representatives of the education sector and staff of the children's rights commissions.

75. Municipal children's home No. 1 includes the Kishti Centre, which is a rehabilitation and training centre for children with disabilities. It provides rehabilitation for children with disabilities from birth to 6 years of age and teaches the parents how to care for their children. The Centre, which has been functioning since 2008, cares for more than 110 children with different forms of disability each year and 20 parents regularly receive advice and participate in training programmes (seminars and training courses). Specialists from the Centre visit families who have children with disabilities. In 2012–2013 specialists from the Centre were able to prevent children having to go into the above institution and 12 children were returned to their biological families.

76. Since 2009, day centres and short-stay facilities have been set up for children with disabilities as an alternative to inpatient institutions. Currently there are 11 centres providing various social services to more than 860 children with disabilities. The work of the centres is funded through social service procurement, that is, the service providers (suppliers) are NGOs selected on a competitive basis. A number of NGOs are currently introducing this form of service provision into six more districts with European Union support. It is expected that there will be 17 day centres in 2015. In just the first half of 2014, more than 1,000 children received various kinds of social services in their own homes, day centres and short-stay facilities.

77. In his address to Parliament on the main lines of domestic and foreign policy, the President drew particular attention to the issue of alternative family care for children in residential institutions. The Ministry of Education and Science has an interdepartmental working group looking at ways of developing and modifying legislation in order to simplify the adoption system.

78. According to the International Organization for Migration mission in Tajikistan, there are more than 200,000 abandoned wives and children of migrants. In the first nine months of 2014, with the assistance of private businesses, the Committee on Women's and Family Affairs purchased school uniforms for 38 schoolchildren from poor families and families of migrants, and provided financial assistance to 16 women from poor families. The Committee also contributed to the weddings of four orphan girls from its Charogi Khidoyat centre. The Committee awarded scholarships to 30 female students in 2009,

within the framework of the State programme. Several projects have been set up with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration and UN-Women to address the problems of migrant women and of the families and abandoned wives of migrants. Implementation of the programme will include surveys and focus groups to identify the problems of migrant women and families of migrants.

79. National legislation makes it possible to combat trafficking in persons effectively. A revised Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Providing Assistance to Victims of Trafficking was adopted on 26 July 2014. The Act is intended to establish and strengthen the State system for preventing trafficking in persons and assisting victims of trafficking by establishing the legal and institutional framework for government policies and international cooperation in those areas, common principles on the legal liability of natural and legal persons for offences related to trafficking in persons, the legal status of victims of trafficking, legal safeguards, the principles for and forms of protection and support, as well as legislative regulation of the powers of the State bodies concerned in combating human trafficking, assisting victims of trafficking, and the organizational and legal framework for their interaction both with each other and with NGOs and civil society institutions.

80. A government decision of 3 March 2011 approved a comprehensive programme to combat trafficking in persons for the period 2011–2013, which has been successfully implemented. A supplementary action plan to build up the fight against human trafficking is currently being implemented; it is aimed at eliminating the worst forms of child labour and providing assistance to victims of trafficking.

81. Criminal liability for trafficking in persons is established in article 130 1 of the Criminal Code, while article 167 deals with trafficking in minors. An analysis of the status of the fight against human trafficking shows that, in the first half of 2014, the law enforcement agencies opened and investigated 17 criminal cases against 31 persons (compared to 15 criminal cases against 27 persons in the same period of 2013) for human trafficking offences. The courts convicted 22 persons under articles 167 and 130 1 in 2012, 14 in 2013, and 4 during the first six months of 2014.

82. A government decision of 4 January 2005 established an interministerial commission to combat trafficking in persons, its mandate being to establish a basis for State policy on combating human trafficking, monitoring, coordination, preparation of international treaties and their ratification, and the examination and improvement of legislation to ensure compliance with international instruments and other tasks.

83. The State labour, migration and employment monitoring services, together with the executive bodies of State power and district and municipal offices of the procuratorial agencies carry out monitoring in organizations and agencies of various forms of ownership to detect offences related to informal employment, including of minors, and take the appropriate measures. The necessary measures are taken to ensure that employers comply with the provisions of labour legislation. These include awareness-raising work towards the prevention and elimination of informal employment and to protect the labour rights of workers involved.

Article 11
The right to an adequate standard of living

84. According to World Bank estimates, the poverty level fell over the 10 years, between 2003 and 2013, from 72 per cent to 35.6 per cent, on the evidence of a survey of domestic household budgets conducted in 2012–2013. In other words, it halved.

85. The poverty rates, based on the food poverty and general poverty thresholds, is derived from new data produced by the Household Budget Survey covering the last two

quarters of 2012 and the first two quarters of 2013, which was carried out by World Bank experts (see annex, tables 11 and 12).

86. According to the 2010 population and housing census, there were 29 homeless persons in Tajikistan, of whom 18 were in Dushanbe, 8 in the centrally administered districts, 1 in Sughd province and 2 in Khatlon province.

87. As of 1 July 2014, there were 1,782 refugees, of whom 270 were children under 5,320 children aged between 6 and 14 and 1,192 persons aged 15 or over. All the refugees are nationals of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

88. In 2013, 189 lawsuits were brought for eviction proceedings relating to public or social housing. Of those, 103 cases were heard and 22 writs were granted, while in 35 cases they were refused and 18 were dismissed. Over the first six months of 2014, there were 51 eviction cases, of which 22 came before the courts, 10 were granted, 12 dismissed and 13 diverted away from the courts.

89. Electricity use across Tajikistan, on average, is as follows: 1,096 billion kilowatt hours per year in Sughd Province; 1,044 billion kilowatt hours per year in Khatlon Province; 774 billion kilowatt hours per year in the centrally administered districts; and 1,055 billion kilowatt hours per year in Dushanbe. The Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province is supplied by the Pamir Energy Company under a concession contract. Apart from a few remote settlements, there are no difficulties with the provision of electricity in winter in the Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province (see annex, tables 13 and 14).

90. Measures taken to improve access to safe drinking water include the Programme to Improve the Supply of Clean Drinking Water, 2008–2020, the Policy Framework for the Reform of Housing and Public Services, 2010–2025, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2010–2012, and the Strategy to Improve the Well-being of the Population, 2013–2015, as part of the National Development Strategy for the period to 2015, and the Millennium Development Goals.

91. Research conducted with a view to implementing these policies has shown that safe drinking water services are available to 86.9 per cent of residents in towns, 61.5 per cent in urban settlements and 43.4 per cent in rural areas. The corresponding figures for sewerage are 79.8 per cent, 18.2 per cent and 0.2 per cent (see annex, tables 15 and 16).

92. A total of 3,663,600 persons, or 48.6 per cent of the country's total population, living in 1,815 localities, have access to drinking water systems, while 3,874,300 persons, or 51.4 per cent of the population, do not, particularly in villages, where the infrastructure has not been developed.

93. Out of 64 towns, districts centres and urban settlements, only 52 have a centralized water supply system and only 29 a sewerage system. There are practically no centralized sewerage systems in villages.

94. The Programme for the Development of Housing and Public Services, 2014–2018, was introduced under a government decision of 1 August 2014. The Programme sets out the basic priorities for the further development of the sector, the construction of new water and sanitation systems and the reconstruction and improvement of existing systems, the enhancement of technical and institutional potential, the implementation of measures to ensure environmental security, health protection and environmental protection, improved quality and accessibility of services provided and poverty reduction.

95. The following projects have been set up and are operational. One project was to restore the water supply systems of the southern towns of Tajikistan (Kūlob, Qūrghonteppa and Danghara), with a budget of US$ 6,850,000, of which US$ 2 million is in the form of credit. This project has been completed. Another project, to restore the water supply systems of the northern towns of Tajikistan, which covers six towns in Sughd province and

Khorugh, has a budget of US$ 27,200,000, of which US$ 10 million is in the form of credit. Activities under the project included the building of a water pipeline 500 mm in diameter and 7,000 m in length from Bogivdara to Khorugh to provide the town of Khorugh with clean drinking water. A project to restore water supply systems in the central towns of Tajikistan (Tursunzoda, Shakhrinav, Hisor and Rudaki) had a budget of US$ 18 million. The project included the provision of computer equipment and facilities to establish water quality and flow and a hydrogeological survey was carried out of water sources in Hisor and Tursunzoda. The project involved construction and restoration work on water systems.

96. Funding for the establishment of water supply and sewerage systems amounts to an average of US$ 28 million a year; to achieve these goals and objectives by 2025, a total of US$ 336 million will be spent on water supply and sewerage systems. It has been established that over US$ 2 billion will be required by 2025.

Article 12
The right to physical and mental health

97. Information on State funding on health is set out in paragraph 16. With a view to reducing maternal and child mortality and improving medical services for mothers and children, 355 primary health-care institutions in 12 districts of Khatlon province were provided with essential medical equipment in September 2014, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), at a cost of US$ 30,000. Moreover, with support from the German Development Bank, repairs and upgrading of maternity units in the Khamadoni, Farkhor and Yovon districts of Khatlon province are nearing completion. With a view to improving medical services for mothers and children in Khatlon province, maternity units in Jomi, Vakhsh, Rumi and Shahritus district have been provided with essential medical equipment at a total cost of US$ 595,000, with support from the Government of Japan.

98. In addition, the construction or restoration of water supplies at the maternity and paediatric units of the Shahritus and Jomi central district hospitals at a total cost of US$ 2.5 million has made it possible to improve medical care for newborn infants in these districts.

99. Tajikistan has, since 2012, been engaged in a project to improve the quality of paediatric care in level-1 hospitals, with financial and technical support from the Russian Federation. The project is currently being introduced in 10 pilot districts in Khatlon province and a pocket guide to providing hospital care for children suffering from the commonest diseases in circumstances of limited resources has been adapted and translated into the official language. Training has been organized for national trainers and supervisors, as well as over 300 specialists. Inspections are carried out regularly.

100. In a close partnership with the Russian Federation, a five-year scientific research programme has been under way since 2011, showcasing Russian and international experience in reducing infant mortality, providing medical personnel with refresher courses in midwifery and paediatrics and establishing long-term partnership links between specialized medical institutions in the Russian Federation and partner countries.

101. In 2012, the Government of the Russian Federation provided US$ 1 million for the purchase of syringes and cold-chain equipment in support of national immunization days against diphtheria.

102. A range of practical measures have been taken to improve the nutritional status of children and mothers. Tajikistan was the forty-second State to join the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) project, in which it has taken part since September 2013. Participation in SUN will provide Tajikistan with the opportunity to ensure the functioning of the National Nutrition Platform, which brings together various sectors of the Government and other important

parties, including civil society, businesses, universities, scientific research institutions, donors and the United Nations.

103. In 2009, Tajikistan adopted the new World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards for children under 5. Training was given to all medical personnel in primary health-care institutions and basic health-care institutions were provided with scales and height charts to enable them to identify children suffering from poor nutrition.

104. With a view to preventing vitamin A deficiency among children aged between 6 and 59 months, two rounds of vitamin A supplements are issued to over 1,350,000 children every year.

105. In Tajikistan, four therapeutic nutrition centres have been set up for children with severe malnutrition, in Dushanbe and Kŭlob, Shahritus and Tojikobod districts. They provide Formula 75 and Formula 100 therapeutic products, rehydration solution for malnutrition (Resomal), Plumpy'Nut, retinol and amoxicillin and treat more than 1,000 children suffering from severe malnutrition every year.

106. In order to prevent malnutrition among children at the outpatient level, over 180,000 children in 45 districts of the country receive the micronutrient Sprinkles and over 50,000 pregnant women receive trace elements such as iron and folic acid.

107. One method for preventing anaemia in children is to deworm them. Over the past few years, regular deworming of children aged up to 18 has been carried out in Tajikistan.

108. A total of 230,000 iron sulphate and folic acid tablets have been distributed to 26,525 pregnant women.

109. In the interests of improving the nutrition of schoolchildren, an interdepartmental working group started to draw up a national policy on school food in Tajikistan in 2014.

110. The issue of HIV/AIDS has been integrated into national campaigns relating to combating violence against women. Gender aspects have been mainstreamed in the new HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme, 2011–2015.

111. One of the priorities of the Programme is to ensure access to comprehensive services to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, reflecting the national results of implementing global measures to eliminate mother-to-child transmission before 2015 and reduce maternal mortality from AIDS. The testing of pregnant women has increased significantly, from 119,033 in 2010 to 172,548 in 2012.

112. Over the first eight months of 2014, 103 pregnant women were registered, initially under HIV monitoring code 109. In 2013 and the first eight months of 2014, 213 HIV-positive pregnant women were treated under the programme to prevent transmission of HIV.

113. According to data provided by the national AIDS centres, 186,298 pregnant women were tested over the first eight months of 2014, thus representing only 75.1 per cent of the total number of pregnant women registered with antenatal clinics. The total number of pregnant women with HIV who registered in 2013 amounted to 112, as against the estimated number of 306. The number of new cases of HIV infection in pregnant women who registered was 83 or 9.5 per cent of the overall total of new HIV cases, which was slightly higher than in 2012 (7.3 per cent). The remaining 29 HIV-positive pregnant women had been registered previously on the HIV status list.

114. As of the beginning of 2014, there were 48 counselling clinics for injecting drug users in Tajikistan, supported by international organizations, 26 of them being located in AIDS centres and the others attached to HIV/AIDS-related voluntary organizations. In 2013, the services of such clinics were used by 9,202 injecting drug users, who were provided with an average of 175 syringes per year, under a needle and syringe exchange programme.

115. There are 22 welcome centres for sex workers, 10 attached to AIDS centres and 12 centres providing HIV services and other voluntary organizations. The welcome centres are financially supported by international organizations. A total of 7,591 sex workers have taken part in preventive programmes which amounts to more than 60.73 per cent of the estimated number of sex workers in the country.

116. There are currently 40 AIDS prevention and control centres operating in Tajikistan. The centres provide the following services: pre- and post-testing counselling on AIDS issues, HIV testing, HIV treatment, CD4 counts qualitative and quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and psychological support for persons living with HIV.

117. The number of people undergoing HIV testing in Tajikistan is growing every year. Over the past five years (between 2009 and 2013), this indicator has increased by a factor of almost 2.5: in 2009 it was 210,179 and in 2013 it was 517,376. Over the first eight months of 2014, 382,427 people were tested. Over the same period, the number of pregnant women tested for HIV also increased by a factor of 2.5 (186,298 in 2013 and 167,897 over the first eight months of 2014).

118. In the interests of preventing HIV in pregnant women, the reproductive health centres of the towns and districts of Tajikistan have been provided with access to HIV/AIDS tests, with humanitarian assistance from the Government and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Currently, 85 per cent of pregnant women are tested at the antenatal stage.

119. Where a pregnant woman is found to have HIV, a specialist at an AIDS centre carries out preventive measures with a view to minimizing the risk of mother-to-child transmission.

120. HIV/AIDS diagnostic laboratory have been rolled out in Tajikistan and are operational. There are 38 AIDS centres across the country, where the public has access to advisory services, testing and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. There are currently 178 counselling clinics, which provide anonymous screening with over 200 adolescents having been tested on a voluntary basis.

121. Various activities are being undertaken under the National Programme to Combat HIV/AIDS, with a view to reducing the incidence of the disease:

(a) The Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Programme was introduced in 2008, initially in 18 pilot districts and subsequently across the country. All maternity facilities provide access to testing for women in childbirth and give antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV transmission. Delivery rooms are provided with kits for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. In order to improve access to services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, a protocol to that end was reviewed in 2013, taking into account new recommendations by WHO and, pursuant to a Ministry of Health and Social Protection order of 6 May 2013, all pregnant women receive transmission prevention services at the antenatal stage, in the form of advisory services, testing, antiretroviral prophylaxis, monitoring and prevention of unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, clinical protocols on a policy for a nationwide programme to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission were drawn up in 2013. These protocols have been issued in editions of 3,000 copies and distributed to reproductive health centres across the country. Under the programme, 120 obstetrician-gynaecologists have been trained in the use of these protocols. Every year, jointly with the National Reproductive Health Centre and the State Centre for HIV/AIDS Control, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection monitors the implementation of the protocols;

(b) A government decision was issued on 3 May 2010 on the payment of food benefits to children with HIV under the age of 16, and children have been receiving the benefit since January 2011;

(c) With a view to timely identification and the provision of qualified assistance and treatment for children with HIV, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued an order on 16 August 2011 on indicators for HIV/AIDS testing of children. On the basis of this order, testing of children for HIV is carried out in all medical institutions, where clinically indicated;

(d) Amendments were introduced on 14 March 2014 to the Prevention of HIV/AIDS Act by providing for infant milk formulas for children born to HIV-positive mothers from the moment of birth to the moment of final diagnosis of the child. Changes were also made to the policy on the provision of food benefits for children with HIV: the age of eligibility was raised from 16 to 18;

(e) Pursuant to a Ministry of Health and Social Protection order, guidelines were issued on the early diagnosis of infants born to HIV-positive mothers, using the dried blood spot test, with a view to early diagnosis and the provision of timely assistance, care and treatment.

122. Patients with HIV have been given free antiretroviral therapy since 2006. The number of people living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy is growing every year and the current objective is to ensure that 100 per cent of children with HIV receive treatment.

123. In order to reduce stigmatization and discrimination by medical personnel, information and training courses are regularly organized on the question of HIV infection, the care and treatment of people living with HIV and related issues. With support from international donors, information and education materials on HIV prevention for the public have been issued.

124. The National Protection against Tuberculosis Programme has been operational in all prisons since 2007. All prisoners requiring assistance have access to tuberculosis treatment. Conditions of care for tuberculosis patients have been improved with the establishment of over 150 beds for the treatment of patients with tuberculosis in all institutions of the Central Penal Correction Department and a new tuberculosis ward with 100 beds has been opened in its central hospital. Diagnostic possibilities have been extended with the introduction of the genetic method and drug susceptibility testing. Since 2011, diagnosis and treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis have been available.

125. Diagnosis and treatment are also available for patients with a coinfection. Medication for tuberculosis has been provided since 2005 and for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis since 2011. Prisoners, medical personnel and operational staff have been provided with extensive training to raise information levels and encourage active participation in combating tuberculosis. Palliative care and treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis will be available from 2015.

126. A new tuberculosis ward has been established at the central hospital and, with the forthcoming relocation of the YS-3/1 prison to new premises in Vahdat district, access to medical services will be significantly improved and the factors that contribute to the development of tuberculosis will be diminished.

127. The Government is also intending to improve prison conditions with a view to preventing tuberculosis in places of deprivation of liberty by ensuring the best possible access to medical services. To achieve this objective, measures are being taken to improve the quality of senior medical staff in medical units to upgrade material and technical equipment and to enhance diagnostic capacities, together with a number of other measures on the organizational and operational side to bring the incidence of tuberculosis in prisons down to a socially safe level.

128. The level of maternal and child mortality has been on a downward trend over the past few years. The Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights Act was drawn up and

adopted in 2002 and the Breastfeeding Protection Act in 2006. To date, 58 hospitals have been recognized under the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative and the following have been adopted: the National Strategic Plan on Reproductive Health for the period to 2014 (2004), the National Health-Care Strategy for Children and Adolescents for the period to 2015 (2008), the National Plan of Action for Maternal Health Care for the period to 2014 (2008) and the National Programme for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Tajikistan for the period 2011–2015 (2011).

129. Tajikistan celebrates World Breastfeeding Week every year from 1 to 10 August. In order to prevent infectious diseases and improve children's health, vitamin A supplements are distributed to children aged 6 to 59 months twice a year, from 1 to 10 June and from 1 to 10 December.

130. With a view to reducing maternal, infant and child mortality, Tajikistan is implementing clinical protocols to cover the neonatal period, childhood diseases, children's surgery and newborn resuscitation and in the fields of midwifery and gynaecology. Training for medical workers in using the clinical protocols is ongoing. More than 1,300 medical workers have undergone practical simulation-based training.

131. With a view to introducing modern technology for the care and treatment of newborn babies, 16 neonatologists from the country's maternity units underwent a training course in Kaunas, Lithuania. Every year, 90 neonatologists attend courses at the Kulakov Centre for Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Perinatology in Moscow.

132. A scheme for monitoring and assessing the implementation of clinical protocols covering the neonatal period has been developed and approved.

133. National immunization days are held in Tajikistan every year in order to reduce the number of vaccine-preventable diseases. In 2011–2014, 99.2 per cent of children under the age of 5 (a total of 1,016,179) were covered by a mass immunization campaign against poliomyelitis. Similar national days to immunize children against measles and rubella in September and October 2009 reached 2,267,724 children aged 1 to 14 years, or 97.1 per cent of that age group.

134. The country has been implementing the WHO and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Integrated Management of Childhood Illness strategy since 2001. Under the programme, training is given to medical personnel throughout the country and primary health-care institutions are provided with 13 non-proprietary drugs for the treatment of children under the age of 5 suffering from the most common childhood illnesses.

135. An equally important aspect of child health care is the situation of children with congenital defects. Following the adoption of the National Programme for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Tajikistan for the period 2011–2015 (2011), a children's ward containing 20 beds and equipped with the necessary medical apparatus was opened at the State Research Centre for Heart and Vascular Surgery. Over the past three years, about 300 children suffering from various forms of heart disease have undergone surgery at the Centre. The executive authorities in Dushanbe have allocated 3,800,000 somoni for the treatment of children suffering from congenital heart disease.

136. The basic laws and regulations governing placement in a psychiatric institution are the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Psychiatric Care Act and an order of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of 9 February 2001 on measures for the further enhancement of psychiatric care.

137. The Ministry is currently responsible for the State-run Hisor District Residential Mental Institution, catering for 240 persons, and the Vose Residential Mental Institution, catering for 220 persons. The State-run Bokhtar Residential Mental Institution, catering for 100 persons, was officially opened in October 2014.

138. These residential institutions take in persons with mental illnesses requiring care, social services and medical assistance. Admission of patients takes place in accordance with the established legal requirements.

139. Patients living in residential institutions may undertake temporary work. They do not work full time and are paid on the basis of time worked. They may be released for one month on the decision of a doctor and with the agreement of their families. Full discharge is dependent on the written agreement of parents and close relatives and with the agreement of the administration of the institution.

Articles 13 and 14
The right to education

140. The necessary measures are being taken to resolve the problem of children falling behind with their schooling. In newly established settlements, where there are no schools, children are placed in boarding schools or educational establishments nearby. The number of children without access to educational institutions fell considerably in comparison with previous years. Whereas, in the 2012/13 academic year, the number of children without access to educational institutions numbered 2,630, the number fell to 375 in the 2013/14 academic year.

141. Furniture purchased and deployed in educational establishments in 2014 comprised 16,903 school desks and chairs, providing seating for 33,806 children, 1,510 sets of teachers' tables and chairs, 1,007 blackboards, 707 bookcases, 154 sets of tables and chairs for computer rooms, 25 sets of furniture for directors' offices, 198 clothes lockers and 99 bookshelves for libraries. In addition, with funding from the State budget, local government authorities, businesses, international organizations and others, 41 new educational establishments have been built and are operational, catering for 14,974 pupils, in addition to 210 buildings added to existing educational establishments, catering for 30,195 pupils, or a total of 45,169 pupil places, for the sum of 334,190,100 somoni.

142. In the interests of attracting graduates of higher education establishments to enter the teaching profession and enhancing their training, a new provision, entitled "Status of teachers", has been added to the Education Act. Article 8 of the Act defines the status of teachers, working methods, rights and obligations, responsibilities, the protection of teachers' dignity and honour and the privileges and material support afforded to teachers and other educational personnel.

143. Under a Government decision of 3 May 2014 on the establishment of benefits for young teachers, the following privileges are set out: the allocation of a piece of land for the building of a residential house and a garden and the extension of credit to young teachers who have a degree and work as teachers in various general educational establishments.

144. A rise in teachers' salaries in 2013/14 stemmed the flow of teachers out of the profession to some extent. As of October 2014, the shortfall of teachers in general educational establishments amounted to 452, comprising 34 in Kūhistoni Badashkhan autonomous province, 74 in Khatlon province, 21 in Sughd province, 24 in Dushanbe and 299 in the centrally administered districts. The subjects most affected by the shortfall are English, Russian, mathematics, physics and chemistry.

145. There are currently 3,836 general educational establishments in Tajikistan. In 224 of them, studies are conducted in Uzbek, in 22 in Tajik, Russian and Uzbek, in 620 in Tajik and Uzbek, in 1 in Tajik, Uzbek and Turkmen, in 1 in Uzbek and Kyrgyz and in 1 in Uzbek and Russian. In 26 other schools, education is conducted in Russian, in 22 in Tajik and Kyrgyz, in 5 in Tajik and Turkmen, in 36 in Kyrgyz, in 1 in Tajik, Russian and Kyrgyz, in 1 in Tajik, Russian and English, in 1 in Tajik, Uzbek and Kyrgyz, in 1 in Russian and Kyrgyz, in 1 in Turkmen and in 2 in English.

146. Where secondary vocational training institutions are concerned, 45 students are studying primary education at the Academician Gafurov Pedagogical College in Khūjand, in 2 daytime study groups and 1 extramural study group, while 64 students are studying Uzbek language and literature in 3 extramural groups. At the Panjakent Pedagogical Institute, 45 students are taking the primary education course in 4 daytime groups and 45 in 3 extramural groups. At the Tursunzoda Pedagogical Institute, 25 trainees are doing the primary education course in 2daytime groups and 75 in 3 extramural groups. At the Kabadian District Pedagogical Institute, there are 50 fourth-year trainee teachers studying primary education in 2 extramural groups. The total number of those studying at secondary vocational education institutions in Uzbek is 100 in 8 daytime groups and 249 in 12 extramural groups.

147. There is Uzbek-language tuition in various faculties of three higher vocational institutions in Tajikistan (the Ayni State Pedagogical University, the Gafurov State Pedagogical University in Khujand and the Khusrav State Pedagogical University in Qürghonteppa), where 2,244 students — 1,055 in daytime groups and 1,189 in extramural groups — study in 93 classes. Up to 190 students receive a degree in their subjects every year and are assigned to secondary educational establishments where the Uzbek language is used.

148. Educational establishments providing tuition in Uzbek were supplied with 28,100 copies of 31 textbook titles and teaching materials, at a cost of 403,558 somoni. Educational establishments using Kyrgyz for tuition were supplied with 969,370 copies of 21 different textbook titles and teaching materials, at a cost of 747,634 somoni. For educational establishments using the Russian language, a textbook on human rights was issued for 11 grades. For educational establishments using Turkmen for tuition, 379,600 copies of 13 different textbook titles and teaching materials were written and issued, at a cost of 1,809,980 somoni.

Article 15
Cultural rights

149. The conditions have been created in Tajikistan for the provision of open access to the Internet using optical fibre cables at low rates and the offer of new accessible rates. The number of Internet users has reached 3.8 million. Over 20 Internet providers have been registered, of which 10 are active.

150. Measures are being taken to protect the country's cultural heritage in accordance with international instruments ratified by Tajikistan on tangible and intangible heritage, one important example of which is the Silk Road. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List currently contains one cultural site from Tajikistan and a further eight may well be added. On 3 December 2011, the Government adopted the State Programme for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage, 2012–2020, under which, in the course of nine years, over 40 architectural and archaeological monuments are to be conserved, restored and renovated. Over the past two years, three monuments have been restored or renovated. Conservation and restoration work is under way on 10 monuments.

151. Practical measures are being taken to protect handwritten books and other manuscripts. It is forbidden to copy them and the use of materials is permitted only with permission from the authorities and in a clearly defined location. Measures are also being taken to equip premises with modern conditions to ensure that manuscripts are preserved.

Annex

Table 1
Nationalities and peoples resident in Tajikistan, on the basis of the population census, 2010

Nationalities and peoples	*No.*
Total population	**7 564 502**
Tajiks	6 373 834
Uzbeks	926 344
Russians	34 838
Tatars	6 495
Kyrgyz	60 715
Ukrainians	1 090
Germans	446
Turkmens	15 171
Koreans	634
Kazakhs	595
Jews	34
Ossetians	396
Belarusians	104
Crimean Tatars	18
Siberian Tatars	17
Bashkirians	143
Armenians	434
Mordvins	42
Central Asian Jews	2
Azeris	371
Chuvash	47
Afghans	3 675
Roma	2 334
Laks	2
Bulgarians	19
Georgians	92
Moldovans	157
(Ottoman) Turks	1 360
Poles	23
Udmurts	12
Mari	13
Greeks	28
Uyghurs	276
Lithuanians	11
Iranians	473

Nationalities and peoples	*No.*
Dargins	6
Latvians	9
Lezgins	13
Arabs	4 184
Kabardin	8
Avars	13
Karaim	2
Karakalpaks	4
Buryats	6
Komi	1
Estonians	10
Chechens	20
Kumyks	5
Ingush	11
Circassians	5
Khakas	4
Finns	5
Komi-Permyaks	2
Tabasaran	6
Chinese	801
Kurds	7
Karachais	2
Abkhaz	4
Balkars	2
Abazins	5
Austrians	9
United States nationals	62
Romanians	4
United Kingdom nationals	104
Nenets	1
Vietnamese	3
Netherlanders	6
Spaniards	7
Karelians	166
Slovaks	2
French nationals	7
Italians	2
Japanese	2
Dungans	1
Hungarians	1
Aghuls	1
Koryaks	4

Nationalities and peoples	*No.*
Tofalars	2
Chuvans	4
Nogai	1
Mingis	268
Durmens	7 608
Lakai	65 555
Kongrats	38 078
Katagans	7 601
Yuz	3 798
Barlos	5 271
Semiz	47
Kesamirs	156
Indians and Pakistanis	262
Other nationalities	15
Nationality not indicated	74

Table 2
Allocation of budgetary resources, as a percentage of GDP, 2009–2013

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*[1]
Education	2.9	3.1	4.7	4.0	4.1
Health and social services	1.4	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.4
Culture and sport	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6

Table 3
Social sector expenditure, 2013–2014
(millions somoni)

	2013			*Planned 2014*		
	Amount	*% of GDP*	*% of total State budget expenditure*	*Amount*	*% of GDP*	*% of total State budget expenditure*
Total, social sector	**6 532.80**	**16.12**	**56.36**	**7 665.20**	**15.80**	**54.20**
Education	2 111.60	5.21	18.22	2 517.00	5.19	17.80
Health	836.60	2.06	7.22	1 099.20	2.27	7.77
Social protection	2 088.90	5.15	18.02	2 689.00	5.54	19.01
Culture and sport	412.50	1.02	3.56	586.30	1.21	4.15
Housing and utilities	1 083.20	2.67	9.34	773.70	1.60	5.47

[1] Preliminary data.

Table 4

Average monthly wage of workers working full time at end of year

(somoni)

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*
All	**356.38**	**434.30**	**494.81**	**713.10**	**857.57**
Men	420.99	537.58	644.88	874.08	1 022.50
Women	251.30	301.16	316.91	514.16	646.83

Table 5

Average monthly wage of men and women, by economic activity, according to annual report data

(somoni)

	Year-end wage, somoni				*Ratio of women's wage to men's, %*	
	2009		*2013*			
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*2009*	*2013*
Total, all activities	**420.99**	**251.30**	**1 022.50**	**646.83**	**59.7**	**63.3**
Productive sector	350.08	174.71	825.41	336.0	49.9	40.7
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	121.64	79.44	367.59	211.34	86.8	57.5
Fish farming	226.21	116.09	378.64	302.71	51.3	79.9
Mining and quarrying industry	744.52	402.18	1 611.99	955.41	54.0	59.3
Manufacturing industry	442.17	459.14	871.55	519.68	103.8	59.6
Electricity, gas and water supplies	443.12	566.72	2 051.43	1 137.59	127.9	55.4
Construction	902.87	733.42	1 466.84	1 099.73	81.2	75.0
Service sector	482.02	289.94	1 150.95	749.73	60.2	65.1
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	303.56	416.08	875.85	585.04	137.1	66.8
Hotels and restaurants	452.28	262.44	887.45	652.27	58.0	73.5
Transport, storage and communications	770.79	724.18	1 811.86	1 629.32	94.0	89.9
Financial intermediation	1 528.77	674.88	2 695.57	2 091.72	44.1	77.6
Real estate, renting and other business activities	782.89	374.91	1 121.73	963.14	47.9	85.9
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	572.40	451.39	1 224.78	921.83	78.9	75.3
Education	245.94	195.31	885.54	616.67	77.7	69.6
Health and social services	283.94	222.47	968.80	721.48	70.2	74.5
Other utility, social and personal services	1 019.84	515.87	960.31	727.66	50.6	75.8

Table 6

Number of unemployed persons registered with the Employment Service of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment, as of 1 January

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
Total number of	**43.6**	**44.5**	**48.1**	**54.5**	**52.3**	**53.9**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
unemployed persons (thousands)						
Women (thousands)	23.3	23.9	25.5	28.2	26.8	27.1
Women, as proportion of total unemployed	53.4	53.8	53.0	51.7	51.2	50.3

Table 7

Distribution of women in paid employment, by economic activity

(thousands)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total yearly average number of female manual and white-collar workers	**401.9**	**414.5**	**455.9**	**490.4**	**482.4**
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	201.9	206.9	233.3	250.9	239.0
Fish farming	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.03
Mining and quarrying industry	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.2	1.5
Manufacturing industry	17.5	19.0	17.9	16.3	17.8
Electricity, gas and water supplies	3.1	3.8	3.1	3.2	3.1
Construction	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.1
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	6.8	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.1
Hotels and restaurants	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.1	2.2
Transport, storage and communications	6.3	6.0	4.8	5.7	6.2
Financial intermediation	4.0	5.7	5.0	5.3	6.0
Real estate, renting and other business activities	1.9	1.8	3.1	3.7	4.7
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	11.4	14.1	13.6	12.4	11.3
Education	85.5	81.4	102.4	106.3	108.0
Health and social services	44.3	46.4	45.5	59.0	58.7
Other utility, social and personal services	11.1	16.2	13.3	13.6	14.9

Table 8

Distribution of employed persons in paid employment, by economic activity, 2013, according to annual report data

(thousands)

	Yearly average of persons in paid employment			*Women in paid employment as a percentage of total labour force*
	All	*Men*	*Women*	
All sectors	**1 065.4**	583.0	482.4	45.3
Productive sector	**611.0**	374.5	263.5	43.1
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	**496.4**	257.4	239.0	48.1
Fish farming	**0.2**	0.17	0.03	15.0
Mining and quarrying	**12.0**	10.5	1.5	12.5

	Yearly average of persons in paid employment			*Women in paid employment as a percentage of total labour force*
	All	*Men*	*Women*	
industry				
Manufacturing industry	**59.5**	41.7	17.8	29.9
Electricity, gas and water supplies	**19.5**	16.4	3.1	15.9
Construction	**23.4**	21.3	2.1	9.0
Service sector	**454.4**	236.3	218.1	48.0
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	**24.0**	17.9	6.1	25.4
Hotels and restaurants	**5.2**	3.0	2.2	42.3
Transport, storage and communications	**26.1**	19.9	6.2	23.8
Financial intermediation	**20.1**	14.1	6.0	29.9
Real estate, renting and other business activities	**16.2**	11.5	4.7	29.0
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	**32.8**	21.5	11.3	34.5
Education	**201.2**	93.2	108.0	53.7
Health and social services	**90.2**	31.5	58.7	65.1
Other utility, social and personal services	**36.2**	14.9	14.9	41.2
Extraterritorial organizations and bodies	**2.4**	1.6	0.8	33.3

Table 9
Average monthly nominal wage of employees in enterprises and organizations

Year	*Somoni*	*As percentage of previous year*
2000	15.57	134.1
2005	83.58	135.2
2009	284.35	122.8
2010	354.44	124.6
2011	442.13	124.7
2012	555.29	125.6
2013	694.89	125.1

Table 10
Minimum wage

Year	*Minimum wage (somoni)*
2000	1.00
2005	12.00

Year	*Minimum wage (somoni)*
2009	60.00
2010	80.00
2011	80.00
2012	200.00
2013	250.00

Table 11
Overall poverty

	Poverty level	*Poverty gap*	*Squared poverty gap*
	2012 13	*2012 13*	*2012 13*
Poverty threshold = 145.55 somoni per person per month			
Urban areas	28.5	6.5	2.1
Rural areas	39.2	10.1	3.7
Total	**35.6**	**8.9**	**3.2**
Food poverty threshold = 105.14 somoni per person per month			
Urban areas	10.0	1.6	0.4
Rural areas	16.4	3.3	1.0
Total	**14.3**	**2.8**	**0.8**

Table 12
Poverty by region

	Poverty level	*Distribution of poverty*	*Percentage population*
	2012/13	*2012/13*	*2012/13*
Poverty threshold = 145.55 somoni per person per month			
Region/province			
Dushanbe	19.2	5.9	11.0
Sughd province	23.9	17.3	25.7
Khatlon province	39.2	34.7	31.5
Centrally administered districts	45.7	30.1	23.5
Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province	51.5	12.1	8.4
All	**35.6**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Food poverty threshold = 105.14 somoni per person per month			
Region/province			
Dushanbe	5.1	4.0	11.0
Sughd province	.7.1	12.8	25.7
Khatlon province	16.7	36.8	31.5
Centrally administered districts	19.7	32.5	23.5
Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province	24.0	14.1	8.4

	Poverty level	*Distribution of poverty*	*Percentage population*
	2012/13	*2012/13*	*2012/13*
All	**14.3**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 13
Distribution of net electricity supply, by region, 2013

Month	*Khatlon province kWh*	*Sughd province kWh*	*Centrally administered districts kWh*	*Dushanbe kWh*	***Total kWh***
January	105 608 667	125 572 174	62 265 625	234 237 399	**527 683 865**
February	89 124 992	101 967 394	58 385 410	174 981 457	**424 459 253**
March	124 964 091	122 265 909	90 393 772	157 348 323	**494 972 095**
April	77 333 364	73 988 099	78 172 400	103 63 243	**332 657 106**
May	66 435 463	60 753 359	66 469 244	87 707 682	**281 365 748**
June	65 022 240	66 129 071	45 305 129	79 272 125	**255 728 565**
July	73 812 610	83 606 976	56 601 724	84 712 043	**298 733 353**
August	73 568 977	74 422 469	54 013 121	77 960 591	**279 965 158**
September	64 601 391	60 802 570	55 638 005	74 621 883	**255 663 849**
October	92 187 764	108 732 237	69 341 197	89 754 507	**360 015 705**
November	102 920 182	102 578 764	65 508 431	171 971 615	**442 978 992**
December	108 837 298	115 788 578	71 578 877	219 819 563	**516 024 316**
Total	**1 044 417 039**	**1 096 607 600**	**773 672 935**	**1 555 550 431**	**4 470 248 005**

Table 14
Distribution of net electricity supply, by region, 2014 (projected figures for October, November, December)

Month	*Khatlon province kWh*	*Sugh province kWh*	*Centrally administered districts kWh*	*Dushanbe kWh*	***Total kWh***
January	117 406 983	123 769 294	68 992 120	207 518 864	**517 687 261**
February	113 574 642	109 500 072	65 345 863	170 661 350	**459 081 927**
March	144 062 313	124 805 510	81 217 445	144 398 123	**494 483 391**
April	85 989 984	88 909 453	67 761 930	115 642 931	**358 304 298**
May	81 744 082	75 254 800	59 252 114	73 908 072	**290 159 068**
June	76 294 328	78 397 682	56 734 980	72 547 387	**283 974 877**
July	79 488 103	75 247 993	57 457 310	78 590 701	**290 784 107**
August	72 892 684	71 036 960	57 916 735	81 339 524	**283 185 903**
September	69 913 583	64 316 776	59 636 551	74 000 859	**267 867 769**
October	94 031 519	111 994 204	71 421 433	90 652 052	**368 099 208**
November	104 978 586	105 656 127	67 473 684	173 691 331	**451 799 728**
December	111 014 044	119 262 235	73 726 243	222 017 759	**526 020 281**
Total	**1 151 390 851**	**1 148 151 106**	**786 936 408**	**1 504 969 453**	**4 591 447 818**

Table 15

	Centrally administered districts	%	*Kŭhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province*	%	*Sughd*	%	*Qŭrghonteppa*	%	*Kulob*	%	*Dushanbe*	%	***Total***	%
Population	1 664 873		210 744		2 181 443		1 622 827		1 006 986		673 747		**7 360 620**	
Urban areas	256 098	15.4	27 366	13.0	547 593	25.1	259 433	16.0	239 536	23.8	673 747	100	**2 003 966**	27.2
Rural areas	1 401 275	84.6	183 378	87.0	1 633 850	74.9	1 363 394	84.0	767 450	76.2	0	0	**5 349 754**	72.8
Access to water, %														
1. Mains water, all	888 265	53.4	67 517	32.0	1 548 703	71.0	467 078	28.8	663 489	65.9	639 887	95.0	**4 275 190**	58.1
Urban areas	249 113	97.3	24 720	90.3	528 893	96.6	227 397	87.7	239 536	100	639 887	95.0	**1 910 018**	95.3
Rural areas	639 152	38.4	42 797	23.3	1 020 010	46.8	239 682	14.8	423 953	42.1	0	0	**2 365 759**	32.1
2. Boreholes without distribution systems	11 124	0.7	0	0	68 489	3.1	0	0	70 631	7.0	0	0	**150 255**	2.0
3. Springs	281 845	16.9	61 805	29.3	124 748	5.7	45 910	2.8	133 929	13.3	23 220	3.4	**671 525**	9.1
4. Wells	5 196	0.3	4 320	2.0	19 820	0.9	20 513	1.3	0	0	2 670	0.4	**52 519**	0.7
5. Rivers	139 389	8.4	47 823	22.7	92 034	4.2	10 297	0.6	23 502	2.3	4 750	0.7	**317 833**	4.3
6. Canals, irrigation channels, gullies and pools	279 832	17.9	17 062	8.1	314 293	14.4	816 719	50.3	75 963	7.5	3 220	0.5	**1 507 187**	20.5
7. Tanker-delivered water	23 719	1.4	0	0	4 487	0.2	78 508	4.8	39 472	3.9	0	0	**146 196**	2.0
8. Rainwater	931	0.1	12 217	5.8	0	0	12 880	0.8	0	0	0	0	**26 028**	0.4
9. Hand pump	34 572	2.1	0	0	8 669	0.4	170 921	10.5	0	0	0	0	**214 175**	2.9

Table 16

No.	*Region*	*Population*	*Population with access to drinking water*	*Access to drinking water, %*
1.	Khatlon province	2 602 131	1 030 940	43.7
2.	Sughd province	2 083 191	884 523	42.46
3.	Centrally administered districts	1 736 537	806 808	46.46
4.	Kūhistoni Badakhshon autonomous province	201044	117 650	58.52
	Total	**6 622 903**	**2 839 921**	**46.29**
	Khujand	165 000	148 500	90
	Dushanbe	750 000	675 000	90
	Total	**7 537 903**	**3 663 421**	**48.6**